

*Liberal Arts College Lecture Series*

So Many Books, So Little Time

Virginia Nixon Memorial Lecture

March 16, 2017 at 7:30 PM

*Samuel Bronfman Building Atrium, 1590 Dr. Penfield***Beth Blum**, Harvard University**Jean-Christophe Cloutier**, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Beth Bloom and Dr. Jean-Christophe Cloutier are both alumni of the Liberal Arts College. Their title is taken from the prompt for the Liberal Arts College's entrance essay competition the year they arrived at the College (2001). Treating it as a theme that continues to inform their work, their co-lecture will touch on some of the ways in which the literary helps to structure our time on earth. Dr. Cloutier will turn to Jack Kerouac's building of his own personal archive and nascent literary project as a "lifetime form," while Dr. Blum will take us into the contemporary literary scene, where authors turn to new genres in order to pose old questions about how to live.

Beth Blum is Assistant Professor of English Literature at Harvard University, completing her manuscript on the literary history of the self-improvement industry. Blum's work has appeared in *Modern Language Quarterly*, *Cabinet* magazine, *Public Books*, *Aeon*, *Oh Comely*, and elsewhere.

Jean-Christophe Cloutier is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. He recently co-edited a scholarly edition of Claude McKay's *Amiable with Big Teeth* (Penguin Classics, 2017), and is the editor of Jack Kerouac's French manuscripts, *La vie est d'hommage* (Boréal, 2016). He also translated Kerouac's two French novellas for The Library of America's *The Unknown Kerouac: Rare, Unpublished & Newly Translated Writings* (2016).



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